

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee Fiscal Year 2014

Members: John Root, Chair; Susan Morrello, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Laurel Dickey, Brenda Davies, Arnold Alper, and Craig Goff

Collaboration with public schools to promote separation of organics from the waste stream for composting was pursued in anticipation of the upcoming October, 2014 statewide solid waste ban barring contamination of the solid waste stream with organics for food establishments that dispose of a ton or more of solid waste per week.

Private haulers serving Amherst residential neighborhoods were approached about moving towards curbside pickup of organics and instituting a pay-as-you-throw system to reduce rates of residential curbside waste disposal.

Meeting effectiveness guidelines were created and trialed to heighten efficiency in accomplishing goals and encourage equal participation of members at monthly meetings.

Working groups to address downtown recycling, organics, and the Transfer Station were formed, with groups meeting separately to explore issues in order to provide reports to and receive feedback from the entire committee at monthly meetings.

The downtown recycling working group facilitated meetings with Alan Snow (Division Director, Trees & Parks), the Business Improvement District (BID), and DPW to explore ways to expand recycling in public places.

The Committee organized and staffed a recycling presence at the Sustainability Festival on April 26 to collect textile, polystyrene, and wood pellet bags. 571 pounds of textiles were collected, along with significant quantities of expanded polystyrene (EPS) and pellet bags.